

Appl. No. 09/523,135
Amdt. Dated August 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of applicant's certified copy of the priority document for the German Patent Application 197 36 441.1, filed August 21, 1997 supporting the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

Claims 14, 16, and 17 are now in the application.

Previously, claims 1-11 and 13-18 were rejected, claim 12 was canceled, and claims 14, 16, and 17 were objected to as being based on a rejected claim. Claims 14, 16, and 17 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner and are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. *Claims 1-13, 15, and 18 have been canceled to facilitate prosecution of the instant application.*

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's statement in "Allowable Subject Matter" in item 5 on pages 4 and 5 that claims 14, 16, and 17 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." In light of the above, applicants have rewritten claims 14, 16, and 17 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Appl. No. 09/523,135
Amdt. Dated August 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2004

Claims 14, 16, and 17 are therefore believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" item 4 on page 2 of the above-identified final Office Action, claims 1-11, 13, 15, and 18 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,320,943 to *Borland* (hereinafter **BORLAND**) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The rejection has been noted, but is deemed moot in view of the previously identified amendments.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and immediate allowance of claims 14, 16, and 17 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the remaining claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested, as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

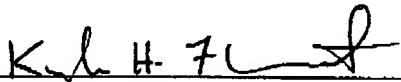
If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith

Appl. No. 09/523,135
Amdt. Dated August 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2004

should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

Kyle H. Flindt
Reg. No. 42,539

KHF:cgm

August 23, 2004

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
P.O. Box 2480
Hollywood, Florida 33022-2480
Tel.: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101